DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15, the proponent agency is TAGCEN.

1733 13
Lojwa (10)

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL	SUBJECT
FCRR	Nuclear Radiation Monitoring of Medical Evacuation Helicopter, Crew and Patient

TO Chief, J-2, JTG

FROM Lojwa Assistant J-2, JTG

DATE 30 October 1978

CMT 1 CPT Myers/plm/62296

1. At approximately 1530, this date, the FRST was notified by J-2, JTG, of an ongoing helicopter medical evacuation from the island of Runit. The call was a query as to if the patient, helicopter and crew should be treated as being contaminated upon their arrival at Enewetak. The FEST NCOIC, SMS Sutton, contacted the FRST on Runit by radio and ascertained that the patient was located at the crater and that the medevac helicopter would land at that site for patient pick-up. This word was passed to J-2 and they began preparation to meet the patient, helicopter and crew to monitor them for any radioactive contamination.

2. At approximately 1545, the HQ FRST was notified by the FRST on Runit that the helicopter was flying toward Lojwa with the patient on board. I monitored this radio transmission and began to organize those FRST members who were immediately available to respond to the arrival of the helicopter, crew and patient. This being quickly accomplished, I went to meet the arriving helicopter at the Lojwa helicopter pad at approximately 1550.

3. I briefed the helicopter crew that they should shut down their aircraft and wait with it until the FRST had completed monitoring the patient for radioactive contamination, so that they, in turn, could be monitored.

4. The patient was taken to the Lojwa Medical Clinic where FRST member Dimambro collected the patient's soiled anti-contamination suit and boots that had been removed from him. SGT Dimambro monitored the patient and his clothing and determined that neither he nor his clothing would require decontamination.

5. SGT Dimambro proceeded to the helicopter where he monitored the crewmember's hands, feet, faces, and clothing. None of the crewmembers required decontamination. SGT Dimambro had each of the crewmembers provide nasal swipes because the helicopter had landed in a controlled area, without respiratory protection, and certainly some dust had been raised concurrent with the resuspension of radionuclides potentiality. Those swipes would be counted in the Enewetak Radiation Laboratory.

6. SGT Dimambro then assisted SMS Sutton and myself in swiping the helicopter and reading the swipes to determine if the helicopter would require decontamination. The rear cabin area (seats and floor), the pilot's stations (floor, pedestal, and dashboard top), and the skids of the helicopter were swiped. Those swipes were read with field instruments and the results indicated that the helicopter was not contaminated. Those field findings were confirmed by laboratory counting in the PMEL's NMC gas-flow proportional counters. The aircraft and crew were released for continued duty, after field counting the swipes, at approximately 1615.

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